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6 May 1977
IC-77-4559/1

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

FROM : Walter Elder
Executive Secretary, NFIB

SUBJECT : DCI Committee Chairmen Meeting, 1410-1655 Hours, 3 May 1977, Intelligence Community Conference Room

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PRINCIPALS PARTICIPATING

[redacted]

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ALSO PRESENT

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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS:

a. The DCI requested the Chairman, Human Resources Committee, to prepare a staff study on the issue of providing the DCI tasking authority for human intelligence resources.

b. The D/DCI/IC proposed that a profile on one area of the world be developed which would set forth the array of potential intelligence collection assets which could be deployed against this target.

c. The DCI requested the Chairman, Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee, to provide an analysis of the BACKFIRE controversy, particularly the underlying reasons for CIA and Air Force differences. The Chairman, WSSIC, also offered to look into the differences in evaluating Soviet naval missile systems.

d. The Chairman, Economic Intelligence Committee, was invited by the DCI to consider the question of where the economic problems of the world would stand ten years from now and what collection and analytical resources would be required.

e. The DCI requested a study of the issue of secure, rapid communications between him and his principal advisors, especially in view of his three headquarters' posture.

f. The Chairman, Intelligence Information Handling Committee, was requested to submit a new study to the DCI on the compatibility of intelligence community data base handling systems.

g. The Chairman, Security Committee, was requested by the DCI to recommend action on recent unauthorized disclosures.

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h. The DCI requested that the Chairman, Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee and other interested elements, including WSSIC, consult with the DCI's staff on preparing a conference to consider trends in technology which would determine the production of military systems in the years ahead. The conference would include military commanders to consider the practical impact of potential weapons.

MINUTES:

The D/DCI/IC welcomed the DCI and requested that each DCI Committee Chairman introduce himself and present a brief exposition of his committee's work.

During the presentation by the Chairman, COMEX, it was noted that counterintelligence activities were one aspect of the overall exchange issue. It was also noted that the DCI was in correspondence with the Secretary of Defense on implications of the exchange program.

The Chairman, HRC, noted that there is no tasking authority for those human collection resources which fall outside the purview of the National Foreign Intelligence Program, such as the Foreign Service. The HRC works by persuasion, and a plan for providing overall guidance is being circulated for comment in the Intelligence Community. The DCI noted that the structure of the intelligence community is under close scrutiny with a view to strengthening the DCI's authority.

a. Decision: The DCI requested the Chairman, Human Resources Committee, to prepare a staff study on the issue of providing the DCI tasking authority for human intelligence resources.

The Chairman, SIGINT, noted that a national SIGINT requirements system was in preparation and would be ready for approval in about seven months. He noted that his committee provided direct support to both the DCI and the Director, NSA, and that the SIGINT area is unique in having its own collection systems program manager.

b. Decision: The D/DCI/IC proposed that a profile on one area of the world be developed which would set forth the array of potential intelligence collection assets which could be deployed against this target.

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The Chairman, WSSIC, explained the role of his committee in analyzing differing assumptions and analytical methodologies on issues, and noted that this process did not lead to papered-over compromises.

c. Decision: The DCI requested the Chairman, Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee, to provide an analysis of the BACKFIRE controversy, particularly the underlying reasons for CIA and Air Force differences. The Chairman, WSSIC, also offered to look into the differences in evaluating Soviet naval missile systems.

The Chairman, EIC, acknowledged the DCI's comments on the OER-produced study on oil and gas reserves. He noted that his committee was not engaged in production as such, but left this to the appropriate elements of the Intelligence Community. He stated that the committee was being used as a mechanism to improve the dialogue with users of economic intelligence.

d. Decision: The Chairman, Economic Intelligence Committee, was invited by the DCI to consider the question of where the economic problems of the world would stand ten years from now and what collection and analytical resources would be required.

The Chairman, IIHC, noted that top management interest was a key in tackling the problem of data handling in the intelligence community, and it was just this past year that the DCI had made a direct statement on the need for planning in this area. The DCI noted his strong support for a common intelligence community data base, and that deviations, would have to be justified. He expressed interest in the possibility of transmitting sensitive intelligence data leaving no written record.

e. Decision: The DCI requested a study of the issue of secure, rapid communications between him and his principal advisors, especially in view of his three headquarters' posture. The Chairman, Intelligence Information Handling Committee, was requested to submit a new study to the DCI on the compatibility of intelligence community data base handling systems.

During the presentation by the Chairman, SECOM, the problems of compartmentation, computer security, and unauthorized disclosures were discussed, with specific reference to recent articles in The Atlanta Constitution and Aviation Week.

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f. Decision: The Chairman, Security Committee, was requested by the DCI to recommend action on recent unauthorized disclosures.

During the presentation by the Chairman, STIC, there was a discussion of the issues presented by advancing technologies and their impact in military and other areas.

g. Decision: The DCI requested that the Chairman, Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee and other interested elements, including WSSIC, consult with the DCI's staff on preparing a conference to consider trends in technology which would determine the production of military systems in the years ahead. The conference would include military commanders to consider the practical impact of potential weapons.

The D/DCI/IC noted that the committee chairmen represented the tip of the iceberg of the intelligence community and they were supported directly by some 750 people. He noted that he met once a month with them to review their work. The DCI indicated that he would like to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 1655 hours.

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